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Meeting of Program Projection Committee on Community Service  
January 10, 1956

Present - C. C. Lang, Chairman, E. P. Callahan, Helen Turner, Ward Porter, Ruth Hodgson, Laurel Sabrosky, Lloyd Rutledge, Catherine Beauchamp, Neil Raudabaugh.

Statement of basic assumptions relative to community and community service was reviewed by the committee. The statement adopted and to be submitted to the committee on basic assumption is as follows: The community situation in which the Cooperative Extension Service operates will continue to become larger and more complex. Some of the commercial contacts, social contacts and activities of people will be over wider areas, with many centering in the larger towns and small cities. Rural-urban distinctions will further diminish. The demands for community services and activities that are centered in larger places will increase. Agencies and organizations, in turn, will be expanding their programs to better serve outlying rural areas. However, people will continue to have strong local ties and carry on many activities and functions on a local basis.

The following two tentative objectives were developed:

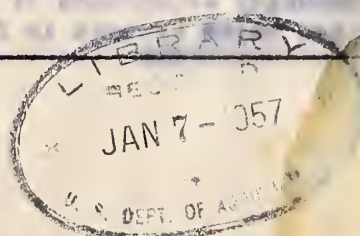
1. To indicate the changing context, structure and function of the community.
2. To assemble facts and trends, regionally and nationally regarding the community and community services.

E. P. Callahan reported on Dr. Helen Hurd's talk at the 1955 Annual Extension Conference. A copy of this talk is attached to these minutes. Discussion of this report led to the identification of two elements in this concept of community.

1. Status of people and groups.
2. Interdependence and dependence of people and groups.

A report by Dr. Ward Porter for the committee on community services follows:

Objectives: (1) To present the views of the authors of Rural Life in the United States (Taylor, Ensminger, and others), relative to the rural community: its structure, function, and importance; (2) To indicate the major areas of emphasis in the Russell Sage Foundation report, Studying Your Community, by R. L. Warren.





A. Rural Life in the U. S.

1. Definition of the rural community: "The geographic area with which most of the community's members identify themselves." "A socio-geographic unit to which people express a feeling of belonging." "Those outside (the community) recognize the members of the area as a group in and of themselves." The authors indicate that the rural community (U. S.) frequently has one major service-trade center providing a variety of social and economic services for both townspeople and open-country population. "Commonly referred to as a trade-center community, and the people within the area have a feeling of belonging to it and have a sense of community responsibility that can be counted upon when crises arise that call for concerted action....(it is within such communities that farm and village people, having discovered their common interests, are more and more beginning to work together.)" "In size, rural communities vary from section to section, frequently encompass from 80 to 500 open-country families, plus an approximately equal and not infrequently larger number in town." Usually - but not always - consists of two or more neighborhoods.
2. Importance of community: "It is within their (Neighborhoods and communities) confines that the rural dweller spends the greater part of every 24 hours, and it is into these confines that the science and culture of the larger society are usually brought to the rural family."
3. The community in rural areas is still a very "meaningful unit of society" to rural dwellers. "Public and private agencies serving rural people are learning through experience that rural dwellers may be reached or motivated most effectively through their neighborhoods and communities... the record to date shows that agencies have succeeded or failed depending upon the degree to which they have become a part of the community".... "unless such agencies can find ways of integrating their programs into the culture of the community they find it difficult to get the necessary response and co-operation from the residents." Cite S.C.S. recognition of fact "that neighborhoods and communities play an important part in crystallizing public opinion and in motivating farmers to practice conservation." (p. 64) "It is chiefly out of neighborhood and community group relationships that rural leaders have developed... leadership is a group phenomenon ... administrators of public programs repeatedly select individuals to aid them in carrying out their program. If they ... select the person who is accepted by the neighborhood and community as a leader for the specific program, things go fairly well. Too frequently, however, the person selected is one who is best known to the agency personnel, but who is not considered a leader by the people ... While the real neighborhood and community leaders may or may not be the ones who stand out and provide leadership for organized groups, they will always be the ones who will be of most help in crystallizing neighborhood and community acceptance of new ideas and activities, especially when these are being brought in from the outside."

4. Current trends: From relatively self-sufficing socio-geographic areas, with a rather limited trade area, rural communities have expanded in size and scope. Individual dependence on the local community for satisfaction of many basic needs is less than it once was, as improved transportation and communication systems have broadened horizons of rural families. Despite this ever-expanding pattern of human associations, however, community feeling and participation are difficult, if not impossible, to legislate into existence (e.g. consolidation of schools). Greater participation by individuals in more special-interest organizations (church, school, civic, service, etc.) has helped to make the rural community a much more complex pattern of living than it once was. (According to C. P. Loomis, however, so long as humans are earth-bound, the rural community as a social and geographic grouping of families will have importance.) Increasing number of formal organizations in rural community, public and private, for meeting special needs of people. Rapid movement of young people out of open country areas into towns and cities, especially those between 15-30. Decreasing number of one-room schools and corresponding increase in consolidated schools, many of them in town. Closing down of many open-country churches, and increased participation by farm people in town churches. Increased commercialization of recreation is attracting youth to larger centers for recreation. Greater interaction in formal organizations generally of farm and center people. More dependence in city, State, and/or Federal aid in supporting essential services, (schools, hospitals, roads, etc.) In summary, the general trend is toward the development of larger village-centered communities with adequate population and resources to support consolidated schools, adequate recreational programs, and a wide range of economic service, with some of the larger communities evolving institutionalized patterns of behavior whereby they harness their resources and leadership through community councils and other democratic methods of organization. Trend is now in direction of more individual social participation and proportionately less family-to-family participation. This has been accelerated by the development of some of the agricultural programs.
5. Community Services: This text includes chapters on the rural school and education (including Extension), the rural church and religion, rural local government, rural health, rural welfare, rural recreation and art, and the economic services encompassed by trade areas and villages. Problems, needs, the current situation and trends are discussed for each of these areas.



## B. Studying Your Community

This "working manual" on the community includes the following community areas: community backgrounds and setting; economic life; government, politics, and law enforcement; community planning; housing; education; recreation; religious activities; public welfare; health; communications; intergroup relations; community organization; organizing a community survey; and fundamental aspects of the community (social classes, informal groups, secondary groups, and social change). In addition to providing information of a general nature for each of these areas (current situation, needs, problems, and trends), the text also includes annotated references for further study.

### Contents

1. How to Use This Book
2. Your Community: Its Background and Setting
3. Your Community's Economic Life
4. Government, Politics, and Law Enforcement
5. Community Planning
6. Housing
7. Education
8. Recreation
9. Religious Activities
10. Social Insurance and Public Assistance
11. Aids to Family Living and Child Welfare
12. Health
13. Provision for Special Groups
14. Communication
15. Intergroup Relations
16. Associations
17. Community Organization
18. Organizing A Community Survey
19. Aids to the Survey
20. Some Important Aspects of the Community

Brief comments were made on the following resource materials on community and community resources by Neil Raudabaugh:

Main Types of Organization Found in Extension Work and Related Social Factors - Extension Service Circular No. 500. Particular attention was called to the "Three D's of Local Social Makeup", pages 1, 2 and 3. (Copy of this Circular attached to this report.)

Making Good Communities Better - Irwin T. Sanders, University of Kentucky Press. Content includes the following:

1. What makes a good community.
2. Stages in promoting a program or project.
3. Your philosophy of community service.
4. Determining boundaries of communities.
5. Obtaining basic information about your community.
6. Serving your community.
7. How to size up changes taking place in a community.

What Some Communities Have Done for Themselves - A Catalog of Community Activities. Community Adult Education of the Extension Service and School of Education, University of Michigan. This pamphlet outlines the following:

1. Community cooperation (23 ways of organizing and bringing about cooperation are suggested).
2. Community service (21 services are described that communities have done for themselves).
3. Surveys (nine types of surveys are described which have been conducted by communities to find out needs and interests).

A Community Looks at Itself - University of Nebraska Press. This pamphlet contains a self-study guide outline for communities.

Initiating Social Action - Adult Leadership, Vol. I, No. 9, Feb. 1953. Tool kit on Initiating Social Action, chart outlining phases of community action, technique for mapping organizational potentials, etc.

Using Resources - Adult Leadership, Vol. I, No. 3, July 1952. Tool kit on How to Find and Use the Resources You Need.

Working Toward Goals - Adult Leadership, Vol. I, No. 4, September 1952. Tool kit on Construction of Community Action.

The list of community services developed in the first meeting of the committee and included in the minutes of that meeting were reviewed. Out of this discussion there developed a need for a working definition of community services to facilitate the work of the committee. The chairman asked Porter and Raudabaugh to work on the formulation of such a definition and report at the next meeting of the committee.

The need for an outline of suggested categories or classifications for study and reporting purposes of the work groups was recognized. The following outline was suggested:

I. Data

A. Sources

1. Private

2. Public

B. People's Needs

II. A. Problems

The Chairman asked Mr. Rutledge to work on the identification of additional elements in the concept of community or social structure.

The next meeting of the committee will be Thursday, January 12, 9:30 a.m., room 3140.

Copy of minutes to:

Luke Schruben

O. C. Croy

Chairmen of Projection Committees

Division Directors